

Lebanese and Syrian leaders discuss Gemayel's proposal

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Pro-Syrian Lebanese leaders met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday to discuss a plan for national reconciliation before presidential elections in six months time, officials said.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuter said the proposals submitted by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to Syrian leaders

through U.S. diplomatic channels contained concessions for Lebanon's Muslims. The sources would not elaborate.

Lebanese 'observer' asked to testify in Hamadi trial

DUESSELDORF (AP) — Judges trying suspected kidnapper Abbas Hamadi Tuesday ordered a Lebanese man to leave the courtroom for allegedly attempting to influence a key witness.

The court also ordered the man, Muja Mahroum, to appear as a witness himself the following day.

"But I am not a witness," Mahroum protested as he heard the court order, saying he was only there as an observer.

Muja Mahroum is a relative of Rashid Mahroum, a Lebanese businessman who was a mediator last year between the West German government and the kidnappers of two West German diplomats held in Beirut.

Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt.

Abbas Hamadi is accused of arranging the January 1987 kidnapping of Cordes and Schmidt in an alleged bid to force the West German government to free his brother, suspected TWA hijacker Mohammad Hamadi.

In a statement read to the court, Prosecutor Karl-Heinz Fornet told the Associated Press

rate, but said the United States supported the plan because it had concluded that no solution could be found to Lebanon's 13-year civil war unless the non-Christian majority was given greater power.

Officials said acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Amal militia leader Nabih Berri attended the meeting with Khaddam.

More talks would be held later and the Lebanese leaders were expected to meet President Hafez Al Assad before returning to Lebanon, they said.

Syria and its allies have boycotted Gemayel, since he refused to endorse a 1988 Syrian-sponsored peace accord to end the civil war.

An official statement issued by Hoss in Beirut earlier Tuesday said Gemayel's new proposals were relayed to Khaddam Saturday by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Berri's independent daily Al Nahar said the U.S. administration has been mediating to end the strain between Gemayel and Syria in an effort to bring about national reconciliation in Lebanon.

According to sources quoted by Reuter the aim of Gemayel's new proposals was to achieve a new accord between the country's warring sects to allow a parliament to appoint a new president as planned in the summer.

The Americans carried Gemayel's proposals to Syria and the Muslim leaders are supposed to give their answers on these proposals, one official said.

Details of Gemayel's proposals were not revealed.



OPEN BRUTALITY: An Israeli soldier beats up a Palestinian girl who was among a group of women who protested when Israeli troops clubbed

Turkey should respect Islam more, Montazeri tells Ozal

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left for Ankara Tuesday after a three-day visit to Iran and after hearing a plea for his government to promote Islamic values.

IRNA monitored in Cyprus, said Ozal had talks late Monday with Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, who urged Turkey to pay "greater respect to Islamic principles and make an effort to promote Islamic culture."

Montazeri, the designated-successor of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, made his remarks when Ozal visited the holy city of Qom Monday.

The Turkish state adopted a

secular constitution after the defeat of the Islamic Ottoman empire in World War I.

IRNA said Montazeri told Ozal that if Turkey sought to return to past independence and dignity "it must respect the religious sentiments of its nation more than it has so far done."

He urged Ozal to provide for the promotion of Islamic culture among young people, in universities and elsewhere and support Turkish Muslims in Eastern and Western Europe.

IRNA also reported that Turkish Minister of State Yusuf Ozal and Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh signed a letter of understanding to build an Iran-Turkey oil pipeline.

S. Arabia: No pilgrim will be barred

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has declared that it would not bar

Iranians from pilgrimage to Mecca, scene of violent rioting during last year's pilgrimage season.

A government official was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as saying: "There is no trend... to bar any Muslim from performing the pilgrimage rites."

Dates will be announced soon by the responsible authorities regarding the commencement of entry formalities, said the official, a representative of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Waqf.

The agency did not provide the official's name, but said he made the statement in response to recent claims by some Iranian responsible officials regarding a trend to bar Iranians from this year's pilgrimage.

The Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina harbour Islam's most sacred shrines, and Muslims from all over the world converge on the kingdom for the annual pilgrimage, falling this year in the latter part of July.

Thousands of Iranian pilgrims staged political demonstrations last year and more than 400, most of them Iranians, were killed at subsequent clashes with Saudi riot police.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef has issued stern warnings that no political activity would be allowed during pilgrimage.

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojatoleslam Mohammad Khatami challenged the Saudi statements recently, insisting that Iranian pilgrims were planning political rallies again this year.

Iraq says its air force poses no threat to U.S. navy

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's air force commander said Tuesday Iraqi air raids on Iranian shipping lanes pose no threat to U.S. warships in the Gulf, and described as exaggeration that an Iraqi missile fell close to an American navy ship last month.

Air Marshal Hamid Shaaban told the Al Thawra newspaper, organ of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, in an interview that reports in the U.S. media on last month's incident and statements by American officials were "exaggerated and lacking in accuracy."

"All what have been said in reporting the incidence were mere exaggerations and speculations," Shaaban was quoted as saying.

The Iraqi government said the attack on the Stark was accidental. It apologised to the United States and Washington accepted Baghdad's version.

Following the Stark attack, a U.S. military team visited Baghdad and American officials agreed with the Iraqis on procedures to avoid similar attacks.

The latest such incident was on Feb. 12, when a Soviet-built Iraqi Badger apparently swerved to within 11 kilometres of the destroyer USS Chandler before zooming towards its intended target.

General George B. Crist, chief of the U.S. central command, told reporters Sunday after the U.S. delegation's visit to Baghdad that the Iraqis had "sorted out some problems that were not working right."

He said talks centered on "de-confliction procedures," designed

to guard against a repetition of the May 17 attack on U.S. frigate Stark by an Iraqi warplane, killing 37 sailors.

Shaaban's remarks were the first Iraqi comment on the Feb. 12 incident and the U.S. team's talks in Baghdad.

Shaaban said the Iraqi air force have taken necessary precautions to avoid incidents involving foreign ships in the Gulf while on missions to attack Iranian shipping.

"Our air activities are well planned and are conducted with all efficiency and technical accuracy required," he said.

With the exception of the Stark attack, there were no major incidents involving non-Iranian ships, Shaaban said.

A U.S. team consisting of officers from Washington and the Middle East naval force was dispatched to Baghdad last week after a series of incidents in which Iraqi planes came within a few kilometres of U.S. ships while manoeuvring to fire missiles at Iranian targets 60 kilometres away.

Shaaban vowed his air force would continue attacking Iranian ships in the Gulf, maintaining that Iraq was "exercising its rights in self-defence" and cutting all kinds of supplies to the Iranians in defence of our land and the cause of peace."

Shaaban said the United States itself exercised the same rights during World War II against Japan and also during the Korean and the Vietnam wars.

"We are not expected to freeze one of our effective means to force the Iranians to accept peace," he said.

Walters 'confident' U.N. will adopt Iran sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— American U.N. envoy Vernon Walters expressed confidence Monday that the Security Council was moving towards imposing sanctions against Iran for failing to heed a seven-month-old cease-fire call.

"I am confident that we are moving along on that resolution and that, certainly not in my presidency (of the council) but in a subsequent one, and I hope quite quickly, we will arrive at some sort of an enforcement resolution to put the teeth in 598, which it does not now have," he said.

Asked about the recent re-sumption by Iran and Iraq of their "cities war," Walters said this should be a further incentive to stop the fighting on land, air and in the air.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department denied Monday that Washington had sent an envoy to Tehran to discuss resumption of American-Iranian diplomatic relations.

State Department deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley termed "absolutely false" a report in a British newspaper that Washington had sent a secret envoy to the Iranian capital. "It is simply not true," said Oakley, answering reporters' questions.

been equivocal.

Walters, at an informal meeting with reporters, said that although the five permanent members of the council had yet to agree on a sanctions resolution, they had forwarded a draft to the council's 10 elected members.

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Morocco's desert war slips unnoticed into 13th year

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

RABAT — Morocco's desert war with Polisario nationalist guerrillas entered its 13th year, virtually unnoticed and with no sign of an end in sight.

In February 1976 the Spanish flag was hauled down over its former colony of the Western Sahara as the last European power prepared to leave Africa.

Hardly had it been replaced by the green star of Morocco — under an accord reached between the two countries and neighbouring Mauritania — when the first shots rang out over the sparsely populated and barren terrain.

Since then, the Polisario — backed by Morocco's historic regional rival Algeria — have waged a bloody campaign for control of the phosphate-rich territory.

On more than one occasion, the conflict has threatened all-out

war between the two nations. Diplomatic relations were severed over the issue on March 3, 1976, shortly after the last Spanish soldier left the territory.

Recently the guns have fallen silent, but diplomats say the lull in fighting should be seen more as a sign of current stalemate, than of any emerging peace plan.

"It is strange the Polisario have not marked the occasion with a major attack, but I would not read too much into that. They could still do so," one North African analyst said.

Diplomats and politicians in both Morocco and Algeria admit the two sides are as far apart as ever. They hold out little hope that a new joint initiative by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will resolve the conflict.

If the Algerians want the better relations they talk about, then why do they not stop the Polisario from attacking us?" Everyone

knows they are not independent, but armed, financed and controlled by Algiers," a senior Moroccan diplomat said.

Algeria strongly denies the charge and calls for direct peace talks between the two sides.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"There is no problem between Morocco and Algeria, only between Morocco and the Polisario, therefore they should address this problem first. It is illogical," an Algerian diplomatic source recently told Reuters.

Morocco gaining upper hand

Gradually, but at enormous cost, Morocco's well-armed professional army has gained the upper hand militarily against the Polisario Front — guerrilla wing of the self-styled Saharan Arab

Democratic Republic (SADR). Diplomats say Morocco's King Hassan is having more difficulty on the diplomatic front, but is backed strongly by his people and the conflict could drag on for many more years.

Some 70 countries now recognise the SADR as an independent state. None has formally recognised Moroccan sovereignty over the area, although some do accept it as under Moroccan administration.

Both sides now support a self-determination referendum under United Nations auspices, but are insisting it take place under very different conditions.

King Hassan has agreed to allow a straight choice — independence or integration with Morocco — and is on record as saying he would be the first to set up an embassy in the Western Saharan capital of Al Aïoun if the result went against him.

But he flatly refuses Algeria's demand that the area be evacuated first followed by direct negotiations and the resulting accord put to a plebiscite.

Meanwhile, the Polisario are still there — sniping away at Moroccan soldiers on patrol behind a 1,040-kilometre defensive wall of sand and rock.

Bristling with electronic surveillance equipment, the wall was built-dozed bit by bit out of the

baked earth. It is 1.5 to 1.8 metres high and stretches south in an arc from the Algerian border to the Atlantic Ocean.

The building of the wall was a psychological event, but we are still there. It has not given them the results they had wished," Abdul Fatah, head of the Polisario office in Algiers, recently told Reuters in an interview.

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Home news

HOME BRITAIN

AL KAWKAB MEDAL: His Majesty King Hussein has conferred on the Saudi Arabian cultural attaché in Amman, Ibrahim Ammar, the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order upon the termination of his mandate in Jordan. The medal was presented to the Saudi official by Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad during a reception held in his honour and attended by Saudi Arabian embassy staff and other officials.

ROYAL VISIT: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein Tuesday called at the Armed Forces headquarter, where he met for a while with Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb.

CONGRATULATIONS: Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayez Tuesday congratulated the newly-elected speaker of the Syrian Peoples Assembly Abdul Qader Qaddourah on his election and wished him success in his new post.

HUMAN RIGHTS: President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society Ahmad Abu Qoura Tuesday outlined the basic rules of the International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Conventions and protocols. Lecturing at Hussein Vocational School in Karak, Abu Qoura said that the Israeli practices against our kinsmen of the occupied Arab territories contravene with Geneva Conventions and the International Humanitarian Law.

AGRICULTURE: Ministry of Agriculture's secretary general Salem Al Lawzi left Monday for Kuwait to take part in a seminar on agricultural policies in the Arab World. The seminar which is being organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and the World Bank is attended by delegates from various Arab countries. The four-day meeting is expected to review working papers dealing with Arab agricultural policies and means of introducing amendments to these policies to adapt to modern trends in agriculture.

OIL: Natural Resources Authority (NRA) director general Kamal Jureisat left Monday for Baghdad to take part in a seminar on cooperation in oil-related fields between Iraq and Jordan. The seminar, being held by the Arab Oil Institute, is expected to last three days. Jureisat plans to submit a working paper on bilateral cooperation in oil matters.

CRIMES: A seminar on presenting and analysing crimes in Jordanian society will be held in Amman — Wednesday. The seminar, organised by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Jordanian society for civil defence against crime, will focus light on crime in the Kingdom based on statistics in the past two years.

CEREBRAL PALSY: Social Development Department intends to set up a cerebral palsy centre in cooperation with Cerebral Palsy Foundation and the General Union of Voluntary Societies, a comprehensive development centre for Slat Ladies Society and girls' typing centre, the department director, Khalid Ghneim said Tuesday.

UNEMPLOYED: Applicants seeking jobs with the government, who have filled in applications in 1987, are now requested to renew their applications at the various centres set out for this purpose throughout the Kingdom, the Civil Service Commission said on Tuesday. The CSC called on job seekers to renew their applications within two weeks, starting on March 16.

PROJECTS: A total of JD 1,555,000 were spent last year on educational projects, establishing social centres carrying out the first phase of Tafileh stadium and road construction projects, Tafileh Governor Aref Abu Rashed said Tuesday. He added that the Ministry of Health has started work on a JD 2.5 million hospital which can accommodate 100 in-bed patients.

YOUTH AND SPORTS: Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat conferred separately here Monday with the ambassadors of Romania and Italy in Jordan. Discussion focused on promoting Jordan's relations with the two countries in sports and youth affairs. Khleifat also received an invitation to visit Romania and promised to pay the visit.

HEALTH COURSE: Ajloun Health Department took part in a training course for Jordanian doctors held last month in Tunis. The three-week course discussed child spacing programmes for families and health matters concerning mothers and children, according to the Health Department Director Hafez Ahmad Qudah. He said that the participants toured health centres in Tunis.

'American media avoid analysing Palestinian revolt'

Abourezk: Coverage of uprising having impact on U.S. policymakers

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



James Abourezk

AMMAN — The American public's outrage at the Israeli brutalities in the occupied Arab territories is having an impact on American policymakers, according to the former Democratic senator from South Dakota and founder of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), James Abourezk. However, he stressed that this change can only be sustained if there was grassroots support throughout the U.S.

A campaign on the grassroots level is presently being carried out by ADC. Abourezk told journalists during a press conference Tuesday that the ADC has been organising protests in Washington and throughout the U.S., conducting interviews with the media on the situation in the occupied territories; and arranging speaking tours for the four American Jews who have "broken out of their mold," Abourezk said, citing criticism of Israel from the well-known Jewish actor, Woody Allen. Other Jewish leaders have criticised for "public image purposes" saying what Israel is doing is ruining the image it has portrayed for many years to the West as "a victim."

Israeli "arrogance" and American placidity have allowed these acts to continue. However, with the uprising escalating even some American Jews have "broken out of their mold," Abourezk said, citing criticism of Israel from the well-known Jewish actor, Woody Allen. Other Jewish leaders have criticised for "public image purposes" saying what Israel is doing is ruining the image it has portrayed for many years to the West as "a victim."

We need a grassroots level. Many people are learning a lot from the media coverage. They say what can Israel do, it has no other choice, and that it is the Arabs' fault that the Palestinians are refugees." U.S. policymakers have kept quiet because of the Israeli lobby and the campaign funds that lobby provides. "Senators are afraid to say anything. Even staunch human rights advocates, such as Edward Kennedy hasn't said anything in public, but in private he has." Newscasters have not followed

the same technique when they report on the occupied territories as they usually do on other countries. "They always analyse or editorialise when writing on South Africa. But, when it comes to Israel, all they say is that Israel was having a hard time dealing with the Palestinians or how bad it was for the Israelis to have to beat the Palestinians," Abourezk explained.

Nor are American motives and initiatives analysed. "The media does not analyse what Shultz means when he says 'peace' or 'limited autonomy,' thereby making it easier for Shultz not to explain," he said, adding that ADC has to work harder to explain to the American public.

He believes that if Americans realised how much of their tax money goes to Israel, not so much money would go to Israel anymore. According to him Israel receives, publicly \$3 billion a year (\$9 m. a day); \$1 billion private contributions, tax exempt, from American Jews; and since payment is done at the beginning of the American fiscal year, the U.S. pays the interest on the money given to Israel.

Although there is no indication of a policy change among U.S. policymakers, Abourezk points out that the awareness of the American people would lead to changes. "Reagan dreams about invading Nicaragua every night, but he can't because the public is opposed. There are Americans going to Nicaragua daily, they know Reagan is lying when he says this nation of 3 million people is a threat to the U.S. These Americans have become opinion leaders. We should do the same and eventually the U.S. government will force Israel to make peace."

JD 1.8m allocated for W. Bank, Gaza projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A government committee on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has endorsed a multi-million dinar programme to implement projects in the occupied territory.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Theuan Hinawi, the committee said that during 1988 the following funds will be made available:

- 1- JD 1.0 million for projects still under construction.
- 2- JD 5,325,400 for new projects.
- 3- JD 8,604,960 for salaries and allowances of teachers, lawyers and engineers in the occupied territory.
- 4- JD 1,860,880 for extending loans.

A statement following the meeting said that Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dufni will hold a press conference in the coming week to give details about the economic and social programmes carried out with government assistance in the occupied territory during 1988.

Survey finds many children in need of hearing treatment

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Italian medical team has completed a survey on children, aged nine months to three years, in the Schneller refugee camp north of Amman to determine their hearing capabilities and help them overcome any hearing deficiency.

The team, formed by the Queen Alia Society for the Hearing Impaired, conducted the survey on 700 children. It found a high percentage of these children in need of an advanced form of testing and treatment at the society's centre.

According to society officials, the survey was the first in a two-phase campaign. The second phase is due to commence soon.

Hamzeh opens Naour health centre

NAOUR (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday opened a JD 200,000 integrated health centre in Naour district west of Amman, and said the project was part of the Ministry of Health's plan to improve and extend health services to all regions.

Hamzeh said that integrated health centres offer basic health services to the public, advice and education to mothers on raising children and health education to the public in general. Hamzeh

urged citizens to call upon these centres for inoculating their children against contagious diseases.

Naour Mayor Khalaf Al Hamed voiced the town's appreciation for the ministry's efforts.

He accompanied the minister on a tour of the centre, which according to the ministry officials will serve nearly 35,000 inhabitants offering general examination, child delivery, internal medical examination and treatment, laboratory services, X-rays, emergency and other affiliated services.

The Egyptians are coming

CAIRO (Petra + J.T.) — Egypt is to take part in the Jerash Festival of Culture and Art this summer and in the summer of 1989, according to the festival director Akram Masarweh.

Masarweh made the announcement after meeting Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni, who said this participation was part of Egypt's contribution towards furthering Arab culture and art. Egyptian folk troupes took part in the previous Jerash festival normally held in the ancient city during the summer.

Masarweh met with other Egyptian officials as well as the ambassadors of Nigeria and Zaïre in Cairo to whom he extended invitations for their country's

participation in the festival.

The Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival in January held a meeting under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and endorsed a budget for the seventh Jerash Festival due to be held in July. This year's festival features Jordanian, Arab and international participants representing Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, the Soviet Union, the United States, Bulgaria, Britain, France, Poland, Finland, East Germany, the Philippines, Romania, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Invitations will also be extended to prominent Arab poets to take part in the festival's poetry evenings.

Japanese, Turkish politicians support Arab cause

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese parliament has welcomed the Amman Arab summit resolutions and denounced Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab territory, according to a memorandum received by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez.

The memorandum was sent by the head of the Japanese parliament's external affairs committee after a meeting with Arab ambassadors in Tokyo last month.

Fayez also received a memorandum about a meeting held in Ankara between Arab ambassadors and heads of the three main Turkish political parties who denounced Israel's actions as brutal. The memorandum coincided with a strong statement from the Turkish foreign ministry deplored Israel's atrocities.

Jordan does not import blood

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday said that Jordan does not import blood and stressed the importance and benefit of blood donation for both donors and patients.

Addressing a National Society for Blood Donors celebration in honour of blood donors, Hamzeh said that the ministry has recently set up a large centre for the blood bank at Al Bashir Hospital, reflecting the ministry's keen interest in encouraging blood donation and protecting people's lives.

He noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) will utilise the newly established centre at Al Bashir Hospital as a regional centre for blood transfusion research.

The ministry of health's blood bank director, and the chairman of the donors society, Janet Minza, emphasised the benefits of blood donation for both donors and patients. She said that the society was established in 1958 with branches in various cities of the Kingdom.



Vacationers contribute to the valley's increased pollution (File photo)

Governor warns of increased Jordan Valley pollution

SALT (Petra + J.T.) — Pollution from different sources has increased in the Jordan Valley region and the situation is rapidly deteriorating unless speedy and effective measures are taken to remedy the situation, Balqa-Governor Mijhem Khereisha warned Tuesday.

Khereisha in an interview with the Jordan News Agency. Petra said that piles of manure farms, the lack of proper sanitation facilities for vacationers and farm workers, the dumping of waste in picnic areas, and the general lack of cleanliness in the valley have all been behind the causes of the present polluted environment.

These and others have created an ideal atmosphere for the breeding of the common fly and other insects. The presence of plastic bags in vast areas has further complicated the problem. Khereisha said.

He said that urgent action was needed to deal with the situation in order to create a healthier environment for the visitors of the Jordan Valley.

According to Khereisha, nearly 30,000 people visit the Jordan Valley region during the holidays and weekends, all contributing to the complication of the pollution problem, simply due to the lack of proper sanitation and other basic services.

He said that manure should be collected and properly used on the land, sanitary units built for

the benefit of vacationers and visitors and garbage disposed of in an efficient manner.

The Balqa governor said that he was requesting the Ministry of Labour to refrain from issuing work permits to agricultural workers unless proper homes with hygienic conditions were available for them. He said that agreement had been reached with the concerned authorities for setting up two public parks, one near Wadi Shueib on 100 dunum plot of land, and the other near Sweimeh north of the Dead Sea. The two parks are being set in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism which is currently conducting feasibility studies on these projects.

Agreement has been reached with the Jordan Valley Authority for the collection and storage of used plastic sheets and for spraying the region periodically with pesticides and insecticides, Khereisha said.

In January, Her Majesty Queen Noor made a tour of the Jordan Valley region where she observed living conditions, inspected tourist centres and took

AMMAN (Petra) — Rainfall in Jordan since the beginning of the 1987-1988 season and until the end of February was higher in average than previous years and in some cases exceeded the annual average by 100 per cent, Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda said Tuesday.

Abanda said that rain in the past month was heavy and abundant in all regions except in the badia, east and southeast of the country.

The heavy rainfall was the result of low depressions accompanied by cold fronts that affected the region causing snow to fall in high regions, Abanda said.

He said that Ras Munif in the Ajloun region registered the highest quantity of rain this season totalling 617.5 millimetres.

He said that police patrol units will be reporting to the municipality any violations, trespassing,

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) will cooperate with Greater Amman Municipality in dealing with violations affecting public property within the Amman region, according to an announcement by Amman police department director Major-General Yousef Gharaibeh.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

New hope for Cyprus

FROM the first look of things it would appear that the election of a new president in Cyprus holds out all promises for movement towards a settlement to the troubled island's ethnic problem and reunifying the country in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned. The new president, George Vassiliou, has already said that his first priority is "unity as quickly as possible," and we cannot but welcome such enthusiasm and determination, coupled with what we have seen in the way of political flexibility on the part of the Communist-backed millions. The best example of how the new leader is seen in his country came when its leading businessmen said they perceived no untowardness or setback in the fact that Vassiliou was supported by the Conqueror Akel Party.

The problem between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots is indeed a clear left-over from the colonial era, along the same lines that we still see in at least a dozen trouble-spots around the world. In Cyprus, the issue was further exacerbated by the rivalry between Greece and Turkey and their long-standing disputes over this and other issues. But now that Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal seem to have decided to open a new leaf in their relations and seek amicable solutions of bilateral problems, all indications are that Cyprus could be heading for a new era since its independence. No doubt, the cautious optimism voiced by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash towards sitting down with Vassiliou and working out a permanent solution to the problem was an extension of the goodwill generated by the January meeting in Davos between Papandreou and Ozal. Furthermore, Vassiliou's call for talks with Ozal is another pointer to better tidings in Cyprus. The lingering problem in Cyprus has always been a sad reminder of similar crises in our midst and regret that the Arabs, despite their traditionally strong links with the island, were unable to do much in the way of helping it solve its dilemmas. For us in the Arab World, a stable and united Cyprus means a stable and united neighbour in a strategic location. Furthermore, a peaceful settlement would mean much less murky waters for foreign powers to fish in and manipulate. We wish Vassiliou and Denktash and the people of Cyprus every success in their endeavours to start a new life in unity and fraternity and to resume their country's rightful role in the international scene.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

A/Rai: Defending the nation

JORDAN Tuesday celebrates a dear anniversary which marks the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The decision was taken by the King in 1957 when he terminated the services of John Glubb, the commander of the Armed Forces and appointed Arab officers to command the Arab army which has been carrying the standards of the Great Arab Revolt. It is the 32nd anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian army, and one of the dearest occasions because it reminds the Jordanian people of the King's continued endeavours for strengthening these forces to defend the homeland. These forces have been entrusted with the task of repelling enemy attacks and aggression and have shouldered the responsibilities along the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli invaders, offering sacrifices generously so that the Arab Nation can enjoy dignity and honour and live in peace. Jordan celebrates this anniversary at a time when the Arab Nation is confronted with more atrocities and challenges by its common enemy threatening the Arab World's present and future. On this occasion, we can only express our confidence in our armed forces and its leader the King, paying tribute to their endeavours and continued efforts for defending the homeland and protecting the Arab Nation.

A/Dustour: Jordan reaffirms stand

PRINCE Hassan has repeated to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Jordan's firm stand and policy with regard to the Middle East question. This policy is in line and total harmony with that adopted by the rest of the Arab countries visited by Shultz, and reflects the attitude of the Arab Nation as a whole as planned at the Arab summit meeting in Amman last November. Jordan, Prince Hassan said, continues to demand an implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab land and seeks the convening of an international conference for the implementation of that resolution which will be guaranteed by the superpowers and the international community at large. Jordan is demanding justice to be done, and this demand is backed by majority of world nations and supported by the principles of the United Nations. Jordan, at the same time, welcomes America's moves to revive the peace process, but it realises that unless Washington exerts pressure on Israel it will be wasting its time and effort in a drive to break the deadlock. If any progress towards peace is to be made, the U.S. should carry out meaningful efforts to end the tension and the explosive situation brought about by Israel's intransigence and continued occupation of Arab land.

Saw Al Shaab: Regent outlines Jordan's stand

PRINCE Hassan clearly defined the Jordanian position with regard to the Middle East question in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. This position can be summed up in the following: 1- Jordan seeks an international conference in which all concerned parties can take part for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. 2- Jordan's stand emanates from the Arab Nation's position as adopted at the Amman summit, and seeks a comprehensive peace. This means that Jordan rejects all partial solutions which cannot achieve a lasting settlement. 3- Jordan is adhering to the legitimate Arab rights and insists on the lifting of the consequences of the 1967 Israeli aggression on the Arab countries. 4- Jordan rejects a *de facto* situation and the use of force; and is backed in this stand by the majority of world nations. We hope that the United States will make meaningful moves towards bringing about a lasting settlement, and will free itself from Zionist influence.

University Education: Impediments to effective teaching (Part II)

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubah

The writer is on the faculty of the English Language Department of Yarmouk University. In part one of his article, which appeared last Wednesday, Dr. Majdoubah identified faculty members' preoccupation with accumulating research papers, necessary for their promotion requirements, as the first impediment to university education.

THE SECOND impediment, which is far more negative and destructive than the first, concerns competition for positions. Normally, the Ph.D. qualifies its holder to be an expert in his specialty. Different Ph.D. holders choose to work in different walks of life, but the right place for those who go into academia is, primarily, the classroom (research, except in special cases, is secondary). A "doctor," particularly in the humanities and the social sciences, is essentially a teacher. It is true, of course, that some professors who distinguish themselves in other interests might be called upon, because of their exceptional talent or ability, to perform other tasks in addition to, or instead of, teaching; that some, after several years of hard work and exemplary achievement, might be assigned leadership posts in various areas; that doctors are not merely instructors. However, the majority usually sticks to what it knows best and to what it has been trained to do: Teaching.

In our society, the situation is almost completely reversed. Few faculty members feel at home in the classroom: Many, I would say at least half of the entire number, consider their "home" to be elsewhere. They are here only temporarily, until they catch the bus of fame (or the taxi, depending on how patient or impatient one is, lucky or unlucky). There are "normal" professors, we must reiterate. And these happen to be of the best sort, academics in the full sense of the term. Unfortunately, however, there are those who, judging from their behaviour, simply do not belong to academia. Not only is their presence in it a mere coincidence (scholarships were available and people just grabbed them, without taking into account their true intellectual interests), but they never seem, and this really the point here, to want to adapt. At present, their enthusiasm for and pursuit of more visible positions (in the university and in the government) far outweigh their commitment to their calling.

In principle, there is nothing wrong whatsoever in wanting to become chairman of a department, dean of a faculty, president of a university, and (in some cases) head of a national establishment. These are all leadership posts which influence the university's or the country's destiny quite tangibly. We hope and pray to have enough dedicated people to fill them. However, there is something seriously wrong a) in having so many people desiring them and, especially, b) in the mentality of those who get appointed assistant professors today and expect to be "elevated" to the status of chairman, dean, or president the very next day. Hold your horses! Serve first in the area you had been sent on scholarship abroad to qualify for! Pay your country back by working in the sphere of your

specialty, where you are most needed! If every Ph.D. holder is assigned a leading post upon graduation or if every doctor who desires a post is given it, who is going to teach?

I am not exaggerating. We have a serious problem here. The number of individuals who compete for positions is indeed alarming, but what is more frightening is the effect (immediate and ultimate) of such a distressing phenomenon on the teaching environment. This is a matter which cannot be taken lightly. The competition and lobbying tactics people employ in courting prestige and power are harmful in many ways. First, the time and effort they require are subtracted from the time and effort devoted to preparation, to teaching, to advising, to department committee business, to extra-curricular activities, etc. One cannot get recognised or become famous overnight. Second, they increase friction among peers. Those desiring positions think everyone else wants them, and thus they distrust and dislike everybody. This is bad news, for cooperation and coordination among colleagues are crucial factors in the success of university education. The more friction, the less team spirit there is. Third, they weaken the sense of pride in the profession and, consequently, degrader it. If fulfillment is measured in relation to one's acquisition of important jobs, and not in relation to performance in teaching, then teaching becomes simply, in most people's minds (we are only human), the profession of those poor, pitiful failures who cannot do better. This feeling, I am afraid, is already prevailing. Very few people find real fulfillment in teaching.

No solution will work unless the individual professor concerned changes his attitude and behaviour. It is extremely difficult, and in fact unwise, to create and enforce regulations and law specifying how the university professor ought to conduct his business. The nature of college education is such that freedom and autonomy are crucial prerequisites for innovative and effective instruction. One of the main differences between pre-college and college education is that while the former is based on uniformity of approach, the latter is based on diversity. To be exposed to different personalities, different orientations, different philosophies, different ways of reading, different interpretations, and different syllabi — no matter how idiosyncratic this difference might seem — is certainly healthy. And it is what distinguishes the university from high school. To protect diversity we must free the professor from as many restrictions as possible. The independence one enjoys at our universities presently is highly commendable. Thus, the change has to come mainly from within the teaching body, not from without it. The matter is in the professor's own hands. It is he who must develop the awareness that the most valuable job he can ever hope to do is what he is doing now, and that the most meaningful glory lies in bringing up the young generation. Nobody can plant such values in his head.

But the institution has also a role to play. With regard to research, I believe that we must continue to engage and insist on it, for the reasons stated earlier. Universities do not just teach; they

also experiment, explore, and discover. In most countries, and we are no exception, it is the university which shoulders the responsibility of scholarship. Nevertheless, I feel that, since research and teaching run counter to each other at this point, we must subordinate the former to the latter. It is time to pay more attention to teaching, to give it more credit and recognition. And since promotion is the main motivating force for most faculty members, it would not do any harm to take teaching into serious consideration when looking into someone's promotion. In fact, it is only natural and sensible.

I wholeheartedly believe that effective teaching plus genuine research bring about development and progress. But I also equally believe that we, in this part of the world, must place more emphasis on the first part of the equation — and in practice, not in theory. President Hamdan of Yarmouk University, hits the nail on the head when he says: Taking all factors into account, we expect our professors to be not stars in scholarship, but satellites. This is nicely put. And it is a compromise we must be willing to make, if we are to upgrade the quality of our graduates and to serve the university and the country best. We are neither America nor Europe, but a developing country which has its own priorities.

Notice that I am talking here about the majority. I do fully realise that in the case of the outstanding minority, there is no problem and no compromise. Many of the best teachers happen to be also best scholars and stars — in short, best in whatever they do. However, when it comes to the majority, we must be realistic in our expectations. As things stand, we are being unrealistic.

As for the second impediment, I fear it is going to be with us for quite some time. It is an unavoidable outcome of the backward times. The citizen in our society has not yet reached the stage where he/she takes seriously and truly means the various slogans (patriotic, moral, etc.) which he/she so fluently, heatedly, and generously repeats in public. The lecturers, the preachers, and the hypocrites are everywhere; but those who translate mottoes into action are, alas, too scarce. Yet, I think the following two measures should help reduce the problem immensely: First, do not, under any circumstances, give positions to those who (you know) do not deserve them, especially those who want them so badly (and usually for the wrong reason); secondly, make it a point to tie nominations and appointments with outstanding performances in teaching and significant contribution to university life.

Finally, it is important to remember that the professor at our universities, unlike in some others, cannot afford to be merely a lecturer. The family, the community, and the school have not, as we all know, carried out their responsibilities to our best satisfaction. Students come to the university with fundamental gaps in their learning and serious flaws in their attitudes. This means that the professor's mission, and a mission it indeed is, is very demanding. He is not only to intensify the student's knowledge, but to rebuild the student's character. This is a full-time job. I hope that we, faculty and institution, live up to the challenge.

Oil-rich Brunei eschews parliamentary democracy

By Leslie Lopez
Reuter

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — Political dissent in the oil-rich state of Brunei is not tolerated but most of its pampered inhabitants do not seem to care, officials and diplomats say.

"Dissidents here are quickly silenced and there is little scope for political activity," said a government official.

In January, one of Brunei's two political parties, the National Democratic Party of Brunei (NDP), was dissolved after two of its leaders called for the country's ruler to step down as prime minister and call a general election.

Dissolution of the party was the first crackdown on dissent reported since an abortive rebellion in 1962 by a left-wing party which won a sweeping victory in a general election but was not allowed to take power in what was then a British colony. The uprising was easily crushed by British troops.

The diplomats and the government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said two NDP leaders, its president Abdul Latif Hamid and secretary-general Abdul Latif Chuchu, had been detained. Police declined to comment.

The small, pro-government Brunei National Solidarity Party is now the country's only functioning political party.

Despite signs that a minority of Brunei's 230,000 people would now like it to emulate the Western-style parliamentary systems of the neighbouring east Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, most Bruneians seem unconcerned by politics.

Richest man on earth

Brunei, the last of South-East Asia's autocratic monarchies, is ruled by 41-year-old Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, reported to be the world's richest man.

His subjects enjoy Asia's highest per capita annual income: \$15,900.

Brunei, which shares the vast equatorial island of Borneo with Indonesia as well as Malaysia, gained full independence from Britain in January 1984.

Former NDP Chairman Arshad Marsal told Reuters he did not know why the party, set up in 1985 to promote democracy in the sultanate, had been dissolved.

Arshad, 67, resigned after Latif Chuchu and Latif Hamid called at a news conference in Malaysia for the sultan to step down as premier without first discussing the issue with other senior party members.

Other NDP officials said the demands angered the sultan and persuaded him to dissolve the party even though its membership was put by one party official at only 200 people, mainly

businessmen, fishermen and farmers.

Decisions were made by senior party officials without seeking approval from the members and I really did not have a say," Arshad said.

A cabinet reshuffle in October 1986 brought more technocrats into Brunei's government but the royal family still exerts control over important positions.

A family affair

As well as being head of state



Abdul Latif Hamid

and prime minister, the sultan also holds the defence portfolio.

His brothers, Pengiran Muda Mohamad Bolkiah and Pengiran Muda Jefri Bolkiah, hold those of foreign affairs and finance.

Western diplomats and academics say major political change is unlikely in the near future.

"It's a unique society. I do not think democracy will work in Brunei and a majority of the people do not see any need for it," said one academic.

Most Bruneians hold the sultan in great respect despite his ostentatious lifestyle, say diplomats and officials.

"Through him we enjoy subsidies, free schooling and health care, fat salaries and Asia's highest per capita income," said a government official.

"Most of us lead relatively comfortable lives and any change in the system could disrupt things," added a reporter for one of the pro-government newspapers.

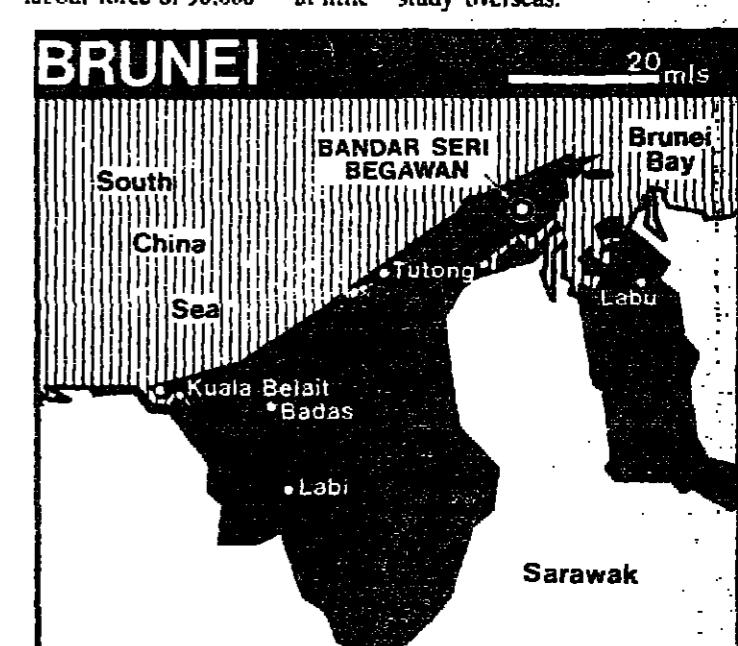
Brunei has oil and gas reserves estimated to be worth more than \$25 billion but its

capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, has few of the skyscrapers found in Gulf oil states.

Brunei gives car loans to state employees — who make up around 40 per cent of the total labour force of 90,000 — at little

or no interest.

But analysts and academics say pressure for change could come in future from large differences in income and the exposure to Western values of the increasing number of young Bruneians who now study overseas.



LETTERS

Clarification

To the Editor:

REFERENCE to the news item which appeared on page 7 of your esteemed paper (Feb. 22, 1988), quoting Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber. The insurance amendment law number 24 of 1987 was intended mainly to bring about a reduction of the number of insurance companies so as to improve the quality of services.

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We shall appreciate your publishing this so as to dispel any misunderstanding or misreading of your story by your readers, who may have unwittingly linked the merger of our company to the quote on financial troubled companies in the same story.

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Rise and fall determined today of glory-seeking European soccer clubs

LONDON (AP) — After the customary winter break, the three European club competitions resume Wednesday at the quarter-final stage, traditionally one of the most eagerly awaited programmes in the continental soccer calendar.

Despite the continued absence of the English because of the 1985 Heysel stadium disaster, Wednesday's first leg games feature several outstanding match-ups, none more so than in the premier competition, the Champions Cup.

One paper, all eight teams left in the tournament have a chance to progress to the final in Stuttgart next May. But one of the two favourites will inevitably fall.

Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, both of whom bemoaned their fate when they were paired together in the quarter-finals, have between them won the Champions Cup nine times.

But only one of them can make it to the semis.

Real, desperate for revenge after being eliminated by the Germans in last season's semi-finals, travelled to Munich for the first leg in good heart after knocking out cup holder Porto in the previous round.

The Spaniards, who have led their national league throughout the season, expect to parade both their dangerous strikers, Mexico's Hugo Sanchez — 21 goals this season — and the "Vulture," Emilio Butragueno.

Last year's bruising battle in Munich, when two Spanish play-

ers were sent off in a 4-1 defeat, is now forgotten," the team's Dutch coach, Leo Beenhakker said. "My players are in much better condition," he said.

French champions Bordeaux have the unenviable task of trying to halt the progress of Europe's most prolific club team.

Twenty victories and three draws have sent PSV Eindhoven eight points clear at the top of the Dutch League, a feat matched only by England's Liverpool, which is also unbeaten domestically this season.

The Dutch warmed up for Wednesday's meeting with Bordeaux by thrashing Volendam 6-1 away from home Sunday.

Benfica, clinging to hopes of a return to the glory days of the early 1960s when it won the Champions Cup twice, is aiming to emulate Porto and keep the trophy at home for another season.

But first, it has to overcome visitors Anderlecht, tough and experienced European campaigners.

The Belgians, however, are not as strong as in recent years. Sixth in its league, Anderlecht's season has been marred by a string of injuries and last week it changed coaches to try and end a series of

disappointing results.

With English teams barred, Glasgow Rangers in the sole British representative left in any of the three club competitions.

Graeme Souness, the Scottish club's abrasive player-manager, has spent millions of pounds putting together a team he hopes will achieve his dream of winning the Champions Cup.

Standing in his immediate way are the powerful Romanians of Steaua Bucharest, the 1986 Champions Cup winners, who host Wednesday's first leg.

Rangers' cause has not been helped by the absence of seven regulars because of injury or eligibility. They include England international centre half Terry Butcher, who is still recovering from a broken leg, and ace striker Ally McCoist.

As a result of the absences, Souness intends to play himself from the start. "If we beat Steaua over the two legs, we won't just get to the final, I think we will win," he predicted.

Cupwinners Cup

In the Cupwinners Cup, defending champion Ajax was playing Young Boys of Bern Tuesday night in a match brought forward 24 hours.

On Wednesday, Belgian league leader FC Mechlin, which has not lost a game so far in the competition, goes against Soviet visitors Dynamo Minsk.

Mechlin has fared just as well away from home but coach Aad de Mos said his main worry was lack of knowledge about Minsk.

It has a second division representative in the last eight of the Cupwinners Cup. But Atlanta of Bergamo, already facing a difficult task against Sporting Lisbon, will miss its top striker, 11-goal Olivero Garlini, through injury.

The line-up is completed by Olympique Marseille's meeting with the surprise Finnish quarter-finalist, Rovaniemi.

BOOSTING IMAGE: Tennis, most people in advertising agree, goes well with cars. And with Boris Becker, the West German tennis star, under contract to Ford of Cologne, Steffi Graf, number one women's singles player in the world, has no qualms about helping the sporting image of rival Frankfurt motor manufacturers Opel of Russelsheim (photo Daid/Opel AG)

Memories of stars of snow and ice linger at Calgary

CALGARY (AP) — The wildest Winter Olympics, etched by the skates ofボイタノ and Witt and stamped by the skis of the Flying Finn, Tomba la Bomba and Eddie the Eagle, ended on time, despite a last-minute wind scare.

In a post-games news conference, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Monday greater efforts to avoid weather problems would be made in assessing future bids by potential Olympic hosts.

"The reports of the international sports federations and national Olympic committees (on future winter games' bids) must be more precise than we got here," he said. "The international federations especially know when and where winter games can be held."

Samaranch stressed, however, that Calgary had performed admirably in the face of a two-week long Chinook wind that threatened to blow apart the Alpine skiing and ski jump schedules and disrupted bobsled and luge competition with temperatures in the high teens C (mid-60s

F). Wind Saturday forced postponement of the 70-metre ski jump portion of the Nordic combined event. The weather improved Sunday, the games' final day, but for the first time in the Olympics, both the jump and the 15-kilometre cross country ski portion of the event had to be run on the same day.

These were games of grand performances and heart-tugging drama and they closed Sunday night with flashy skating, raucous dancing, a million "yah-hoos" and many a tear rolling down cheeks.

The Soviets made many new friends with their personal touch of glasnost (openness) and won renewed respect by dominating the competition with a record 29 medals — 11 golds, nine silvers and nine bronzes in 46 events.

The games began in a blizzard and closed on a cool, starry night after a balmy final day. Along the way it seemed as if four seasons passed, swept along by the crazy Chinook winds.

These were Olympics packed with professional athletes and coaches, 4,500 members of media and 200,000 visitors.

The athletes enjoyed the

camaraderie in the Olympic village with its disco, movie theatre and video arcade.

Self-assessments

Officials of some delegations, meanwhile, pondered ways to improve performances in future games.

The U.S. Olympic Committee asked New York Yankees baseball boss George Steinbrenner to probe America's failure to win more than six medals, its worst showing relative to the number of medals available since the games began in 1924.

Canada also is investigating why its heavy spending on Olympic training resulted in only five medals, none of them gold.

East Germany didn't quite catch the Soviets, finishing with nine golds and 25 medals overall, but it gave the games some of their greatest performances.

Katarina Witt wowed the figure skating judges and crowd as she tap-danced in blue feathers to "Hello, Dolly," then won them as the temptress "Carmen" to win the gold.

Befitting goodbye

The 22-year-old East German beauty with the flair of a Hollywood actress left her fans a final

Graf glides through Texas hard court

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — World number one Steffi Graf of West Germany did not show any effects of her five week layoff as she crushed American Cammy MacGregor 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the \$200,000 U.S. women's hard court championships Monday.

In other first round action, fourth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, ranked 13th in the world, breezed past Jo Durie of Britain 6-1, 6-4.

Sixth seed Nathalie Tauziat of France had tougher time, but fought her way past American Louise Allen 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

The top-seeded Graf, who has not played a tournament since winning the Australian Open in January, easily overpowered the hapless MacGregor, who simply

could not handle the West German's blazing forehand.

"I wanted to get ready for the upcoming hardcourt season," Graf said.

"But all I did was practice. I didn't see any results. That's why I wanted to play the tournament," she said. "My serve was working very well today. But I think I need some more matches."

Graf, the world's top-ranked women's singles player, needed only 49 minutes to eliminate her opponent before 1,500 people at McFarlin Tennis Centre.

The second-and third-seeded players, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and Lori McNeil of the United States, were scheduled to play their first-round matches Tuesday.



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Economy

Jordan's construction sector spent JD 1.6b during 1987

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zawaidah was quoted by Al Dustour newspaper as saying that last year the construction sector in Jordan spent JD 1,600 million on building projects in the Kingdom.

He said that 85 per cent of the work was carried out by the local contractors.

The minister said that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is now drawing up regulations defining the volume of work which foreign contractors can undertake in the country and that the ministry will continue to look into ways of solving the problem of engineering work and the registration of engineers with the Jordan Engineers Association.

Maritime Bridge Company begins active operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Maritime Bridge Company linking Jordan, Egypt and Iraq has embarked on active operations of transporting passengers and goods and ferrying vehicles from Aqaba to Nweibeh in Syria and back.

The operations follow an endorsement of the project by the governments of the three countries after the conclusion of an agreement on the establishment of the company late last year.

Upon its inception, an official announcement said that the company hoped to strengthen trade and economic links within the Arab World.

Bank extends small loan to Sihan

SALT (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has decided to grant the village council of Sihan in Balqa governorate a JD 15,000 loan. The loan will be used to finance the construction and lighting of streets in the village.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading Tuesday was unusually low registering an overall total of 250,277 shares for a volume of JD 351,743 spread over 308 contracts.

Intermediate Petrochemical Industries (IPI) accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the shares traded, 30 per cent of the volume and 25 per cent of the number of contracts.

The shares of 45 companies were traded Tuesday but except for IPI and Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries, which recorded 53,400 shares, all the rest ranged between 71 and 9,900 shares.

In terms of volume, the highest figure of the IPI was JD 33,039 achieved by Jordan-French Insurance. Below that, only 10 companies recorded amounts above JD 10,000.

The prices of the Arab Bank share and the Jordan-French Insurance moved between a high and a low of JD 119.00 - JD 118.500 and JD 6.250 - JD 5.900 respectively.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good time to plan your long-range goals, begin this project and get many fine results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try to make your ambitions more practical and worthwhile. Think over what your friends expect of you, and try to live up to this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can become more successful, financially and in business, by bringing your abilities to the attention of your superiors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can make a few very beneficial contacts by visiting new places with a good friend. Be clever, but cautious, while speaking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you get an early start, you can put over some big deals you have been working on, and with surprisingly little effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can come to a fine meeting of minds with a superior, but be sure to hold up your end of the bargain. Make your conversations concise.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A co-worker has some good ideas for improving the efficiency of your workplace, but get the approval of your superior before beginning.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you entertain some guests at home tonight, stick to conventional amusements. Try to see your problems from another point of view.

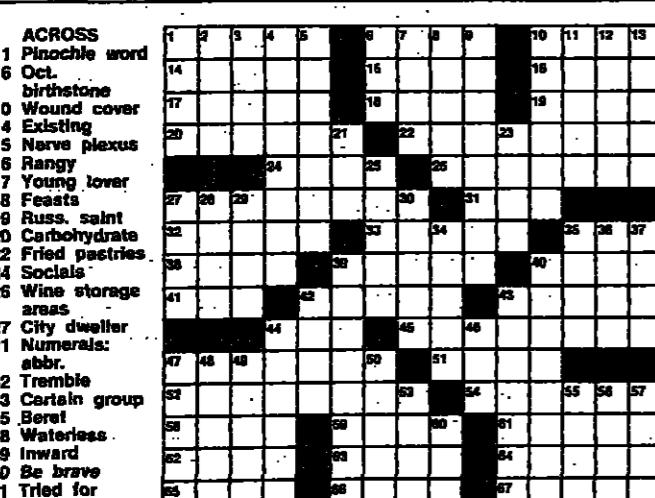
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If some good friends ask you to join in a group project, accept the offer. Now is a good time to pursue some dreams which seemed out of reach.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You will have an opportunity to improve your financial situation, but don't rush into anything. Follow an adviser's suggestions.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22) Think carefully as you proceed today, and learn from past experiences. Get together with some good friends for an evening of entertainment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on finding some better

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

9 Abstain	10 Bialas	11 Arms
10 Oct.	11 Eel	12 Tail
10 Marathon	11 Emcee	12 Tally
10 Weekend cover	11 Pista	12 Vain
10 Existing	11 Vaunt	12 Write
10 Nerve	11 Staff	12 Refute
10 Rangy	11 Gaze	12 Spin
10 Young lover	11 Academie	12 Anticipate
10 Feasts	11 Totem	12 Totem
10 Mess salt	11 Emcee	12 Totem
10 Correspondent	11 Tally	12 Totem
10 Fried pastries	11 Staff	12 Totem
10 Socials	11 Gaze	12 Anticipate
10 Wine storage	11 Academie	12 Anticipate
10 areas	11 Totem	12 Anticipate
10 City dweller	11 Emcee	12 Anticipate
10 Materials	11 Tally	12 Anticipate
10 Leder	11 Staff	12 Anticipate
10 Tremble	11 Gaze	12 Anticipate
10 Corian group	11 Academie	12 Anticipate
10 Beret	11 Totem	12 Anticipate
10 Waterless	11 Emcee	12 Anticipate
10 Inward	11 Tally	12 Anticipate
10 Be brave	11 Staff	12 Anticipate
10 Trips for	11 Gaze	12 Anticipate
10 Office	11 Academie	12 Anticipate
10 Sparkle	11 Totem	12 Anticipate
10 Swiss city	11 Emcee	12 Anticipate
10 Bakery item	11 Tally	12 Anticipate
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10 Inward	11 Gaze	12 Anticipate
10 Be brave</td		

Najibullah says rebel commanders have prime right to join a coalition

Kabul invites rebels to join government

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan President Najibullah said Tuesday Muslim rebel field commanders fighting his government inside the country had a prime right to join a coalition to bring peace to Afghanistan.

"It is precisely these people who have never left the country who have the prime right to take part in a coalition government," he told a mass rally in Kabul, according to the Soviet news agency TASS.

"But the opposition leaders in Pakistan refuse to take the commanders of armed groups into account," Najibullah told the rally, called on the eve of crucial U.N.-sponsored peace talks opening in Geneva Wednesday.

Pakistan, which is involved in the indirect talks with the Kabul administration, has said it would not sign accords clearing the way for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan unless an interim government was formed

first in Kabul.

Leaders of seven Afghan rebel groupings based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar have rejected the possibility of any discussions with Najibullah representatives, saying they will not cooperate with "communists."

Afghanistan's ambassador to Moscow said Tuesday the Kabul government was ready for talks "anywhere at any time" with rebel leaders on the formation of a new coalition to run the country.

The envoy told a news conference such talks could include discussion of assigning the post of prime minister to a figure from the opposition to Najibullah's

Soviet-backed administration. "We are ready to talk to the opposition at any place and at any time on solving the problems in our country. But these talks must be separate from the Geneva negotiations," the ambassador, Mohammadzul Subhani Safi, said.

The Soviet communist party newspaper Pravda urged Islamabad Tuesday to drop its demands — loudly echoed by the so-called "Peshawar seven" opposition groups — for an immediate interim government.

"If the Pakistani leaders are really interested in a solution of the Afghan problem, then they have the chance by signing the Geneva documents to prove that not just by words but by deeds," Pravda said.

Many diplomatic analysts say Moscow seems determined now to withdraw its some 115,000 forces over the next year.

Moscow and Kabul have said the formation of a coalition can only be discussed among Afghans themselves and not at Geneva.

But both Soviet and Afghan officials, in assertions backed by independent reports from Afghanistan, say rebel field commanders are more ready for negotiations on a genuine ceasefire and formation of an interim administration.

In his speech Najibullah said the Afghan people expected a peace to emerge from the Geneva negotiations, which have been under way for some six years.

"We are bending every effort to solve the problem around and inside our country by peaceful means," he said.

In implementing its policy of national reconciliation, originally launched in January 1987, he said his administration had shown "a readiness to evaluate events ob-

jectively and realistically.... Now we have the right to expect a responsible approach from the other side," TASS quoted him as saying.

"Our task is to restore peace in order to preserve the life of our people, to prevent a national tragedy and ensure the flourishing of our homeland.

"We will build a just society for all, independent of political views, nationality or religion," said Najibullah, who has dropped all claim to be building socialism in the country.

"We are for progress that will retain our people's traditions, for a non-aligned, free and independent Afghanistan.

"The time has come when every Afghan patriot must make his contribution to establishing peace. Only the Afghan people has the right to decide the fate of its fatherland."



IN EXILE: Afghan refugees based in Peshawar in Pakistan could soon be encouraged to return home.

Renewed protests in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Troops and armoured cars enforced an overnight curfew in the troubled Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, a local police official said on Tuesday.

The official, contacted by telephone from Moscow, said the industrial centre was quiet after rioting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians over the weekend.

"Troops and armoured personnel carriers are on the streets to enforce the curfew," he said. "The situation is now under control. Everything is quiet."

He said the curfew was in operation between 8 p.m. until 7 a.m. local time in the city, just north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

The republic's communist party chief appealed for calm after days of unrest over the redrawing of regional boundaries.

The Soviet news agency TASS said on Monday that rioters had run rampant on Sunday through Sumgait, an industrial centre just north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

"Rampage and violence followed" the agency said. "Measures have been taken to normalise the situation in the city and safeguard discipline and public order."

TASS said the riots were "provoked by a group of hooligans" but did not say whether there was any ethnic aspect to the incidents.

There were several reports of violence in Azerbaijan since trouble flared there last week and in the neighbouring Republic of Armenia over a territorial dispute.

A senior Moscow official had said on Baku radio on Sunday that two men — both clearly Azerbaijanis — had been killed in disturbances linked to Armenian claims on a region administered as part of Azerbaijan.

Hundreds of thousands of Armenians demonstrated in the republic's capital, Yerevan, last week to demand the return to Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Soviets optimistic about arms accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet government thinks it is possible to reach a strategic arms accord before an expected summit with the United States this summer, a Soviet official said Monday.

"We remain optimistic," said the official, who has been involved in the negotiations in Geneva on long-range weapons. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We are near the finishing line," he said, "and there is still plenty of time" before Secretary of State George P. Shultz and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, meet again in Washington on March 22 to 23. Shultz and Shevardnadze ordered their aides to negotiate, before that March meeting, draft

agreements on three areas: verifying compliance, dismantling weapons, and exchanging data on the arsenals.

The Soviet diplomat said these three drafts constitute the bulk of the work to be done, "on the treaty, although several major points of disagreement remain."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in an interview published last Friday by the Washington Post, said he did not think it possible to reach an accord before the summit, which is expected in late May or early June.

"We're not at this moment anticipating that it would be ready for signature then," Reagan told the Post. But he said the deal was possible before he leaves office next January.

The proposed treaty would cut strategic nuclear arsenals by 35 per cent to 50 per cent, setting a limit of 6,000 on the overall number of warheads with ranges of more than 5,000 kilometres.

The Soviets are balking at a U.S. demand to limit the number of warheads on land-based missiles to 3,300 and the number of warheads aboard so-called heavy missiles to 1,650, according to U.S. officials.

The Soviets want to set a limit on the number of sea-launched cruise missiles, above the 6,000 warhead ceiling. U.S. officials have objected to such a limit, in part because it would be difficult to verify.

The Soviet official repeated a remark by Kremlin leader

Mikhail S. Gorbachev that technology exists to detect nuclear weapons aboard naval vessels, a statement that U.S. experts question.

"Such things as sublimits need to be worked out at the highest political levels," such as the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in March, the official said.

"The bulk of the work, the technical details, is in the three drafts and needs to be worked out at the expert level" before the tough political decisions, he said.

The official also repeated that the Soviet Union would countenance some space tests of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, as long as both sides agreed they did not violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Kohl to shed 'bad boy' image in NATO group

BRUSSELS (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has laid aside a dispute with Washington over NATO's long-term policies in a bid to shed Bonn's "bad-boy" image in the alliance, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Kohl, facing two sensitive state visits this spring, managed in talks last month with President Ronald Reagan to achieve a postponement of their discussion over how to deal with NATO short-range nuclear missiles based in West Germany.

Washington, pressing Kohl to reaffirm his commitment to a 1983 NATO decision to update the missiles, struck a raw nerve in Bonn, where a growing political consensus sees them as a special threat for West Germany on Nato's frontline.

Kohl's trip smoothed things over. Kohl's main concern is that NATO develops a comprehensive strategy to deal with long-term arms policy, Bonn government officials said.

"A decision on an isolated category of weapons now will not be helpful," one official said.

A pressing political agenda made a quick fix of his discord with Washington essential for Kohl.

Genscher's detente-minded Liberal Free Democrats have steadily advanced in state elections over the past year, their successes on a platform of disarmament underscoring deep West German sentiment in favour of continued arms reductions.

Crowd cheers Noriega as strike dies down

PANAMA CITY (Agencies)

Strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega and new President Manuel Solis Palma appeared before 2,000 cheering supporters in a show of solidarity as Panama's opposition vowed to step up a strike on Tuesday.

At the rally on Monday night in a poor district of the city Solis Palma declared: "Here there are two friends who work together. Here there is no commander who gives orders and a president who obeys."

The rally marked the second time the new president had appeared in public with Noriega.

A note passed by one of the audience to a reporter said: "We are only here out of need because the general promised us a box of food and you will understand we are poor and hungry."

The opposition civic crusade vowed to step up a national strike aimed at pressuring Noriega to resign after a stoppage called for Monday was given only limited support.

Civic crusade leaders told a news conference the strike had paralysed large sectors of the economy, but had failed to have wider impact because of intimidation by security forces.

Crusade spokesman Tomas Herrera said: "The private sector of the economy was paralysed more than 80 per cent. The strike will have a larger effect tomorrow."

Solis Palma said at least 60 per cent of the Panamanians worked on Monday. State-run television said there was "complete tranquility in the whole country" and the strike had minimal effect.

In Washington, President

Ronald Reagan was said to have

no plans for new economic sanctions

against Panama, even though he has determined that

Panama has not been cooperating in curbing drug trafficking to the United States, a U.S. official said Monday.

The official said that penalties to be announced on Tuesday have already been applied against Panama and will thus have no material impact on that country.

A 1986 U.S. law decreed that countries which do not take steps to halt drug trafficking to the United States are no longer eligible for U.S. aid and are not entitled to U.S. support for their assistance requests to international lending institutions.

Criticism of artists against Glasnost

MOSCOW (AP) — Eight leading theater artists, angered by attacks

on a play yet to be performed,

said Monday political denunciations of artists could lead to a

return of old-style censorship.

In a letter to the communist party newspaper Pravda, the eight

artists charged that the

play was "theatrical

artificiality."

The artists said the play

was "a political statement."

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